6th August 1929]

APPENDIX XXI.

[Vide item XII—Papers laid on the table of the House at page 93 supra.]

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

[Prices—Madras—Firewood—Rice in price due to the closure of the Buckingham Canal.]

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 1751 *at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on* 15*th March* 1929 *the following papers are laid on the table* :—

(i)

Letter from P. C. DUTT, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated the 20th March 1929, No. D. Dis. A. 854/29.

The existing sale price of casuarina broken firewood ranges from Rs. 26 to Rs. 30 per ton according to quality; and this price has been prevalent during the last one week. This reduction in price is indirectly due to the orders of the Government to open the canal for traffic. Though sufficient stock has not been received through boats, still the apprehension of the firewood exporters in Nellikuppam, Mannargudi, Alapakam and other places who have been sending the firewood by rail that, if the canal is kept open, the demand for their stock will go down, has lowered the prices. The Tahsildar reports that as the canal has been closed again and as the existing stock is insufficient for the requirements till the reopening of the canal, the date of which has not been exactly announced, the depot-keepers say that the prices are likely to go up again. They therefore state that the exact date of closing and opening the canal should be fixed by Government and given wide publicity to all the casuarina tope owners living in villages from Adyar to Marakanam near Pondicherry. If this is done they state that the boats containing the firewood will be kept ready and used for to and fro journeys as soon as the canal is declared open and that the prices will go down more as they will then make arrangements in advance for supply of adequate stock.

(ii)

Official Memorandum No. 6454—*D*/29–1, *P.W. & L., dated* 23*rd March* 1929.

A copy of the letter from the Collector of Madras, No. D. Dis. A. 854/29, dated 20th March 1929, is forwarded to the Executive Engineer, Chingleput division, and he is requested to communicate to the Tahsildars concerned copies of all notifications issued by him in regard to the closure and the opening of the canal, specifying clearly the reaches of the canal that are affected during each closure period.

2. The Board of Revenue is requested to instruct the Tahsildars concerned to publish the notifications by beat of tom-tom in all the villages in their jurisdiction.

C. A. SOUTER,
Secretary to Government.

(iii)

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement), Routine No. 3123, *dated* 8*th May* 1929.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD BAZL-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur, C.I.E., O.B.E.,

Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from P. C. DUTT, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated the 6th May 1929, D. Dis. No. A–1, 1029/29.

The price of firewood (broken) ranges from Rs. 23 to Rs. 26 per ton according to quality after the 21st April 1929.

Resolution—Routine No. 3123, *dated* 8*th May* 1929.

Submitted to Government.

(iv)

Letter from R. D RICHMOND, Esq., I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated the 27th May 1929, D. Dis. No. 1924/29.

[Legislative Council Question No. 2136 (1751)—Firewood—Supply—Madras City.]

Clause (*b*) *of the Legislative Council Question.*—The quantities of firewood brought into the city during the past three years from Government forests were—

	TONS.
1926–27	18,621
1927–28	26,257
1928–29	33,298

Clause (*c*) *of the Legislative Council Question.*—During the year 1928–29, 6,481 acres of Government forests suitably situated for the extraction of fuel to Madras were leased to 28 persons but no definite purpose was specified in the leases. The leased areas often contain small timber, which is locally used, as well as fuel.

Clause (*d*) *of the Legislative Council Question.*—There has been no complaint of the coupes being too big for small lessees. The area of the coupes varied from 50 to 184 acres.

Clause (*f*) *of the Legislative Council Question.*—There are no casuarina plantations owned by Government. Under the new working plan for the Sriharikota Forests in Nellore district it is expected that an area of 500 acres will be planted with casuarina at the rate of 50 acres per year from the current year.